

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 4-9 are allowed
Claims 1 – 9 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of all grounds of rejection in the Office Action based upon the
above amendments, and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested
in light of the following remarks.

Claim 4 has been objected. In response, claim 4 has been amended to remove the
antecedent basis and to further clarify the invention.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (e) as allegedly being
anticipated by Andersen (US 2002/0067891). Applicants respectfully traverses the
rejection of claim 1 over Andersen as instant claim 1, now amended, recites a planar light
wave circuit comprising, inter alia, a common region defined by each bordering end
surface of a first to a third waveguides.... wherein the common region is an opening
formed on the planar light wave circuit.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at page 4, line 13 to 15:

The common region 140 is provided by **forming a hole**, which is shaped like a
triangular column extending up to the surface of the substrate 110, in the central
portion of the planar light wave circuit 100. Page 4, line 13 to 15 (emphasis
added)

...

When the planar light wave circuit 100 includes other waveguides in addition to
the first to the third waveguide 121 to 123, the common region 140 may have the
shape of a polygonal **column** in addition to the triangular **column**. Page 4, line 17
to 20 (emphasis added)

In contrast, Andersen discloses an optical component wherein “[o]ptical energy
[is] transmitted through isolator 14 [and] enters [a] **prism** 29[,] through surface 30.

[0018](emphasis added). The reference label 29, identified as a **prism** in Andersen, is different from a **common region defined by each bordering end surface of a first to a third waveguides**, as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submit that the present invention teaches a common region which provided by **forming a hole or opening**. As Andersen and the present invention are structurally distinct, i.e., Anderson relating to a solid and the present invention relating to a gas, it is respectfully submitted that Anderson fails to anticipate claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

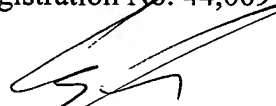
The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) and (e).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited reference. A notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues, which may be best, resolved by telephone communication, please contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 10, 2005

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 10, 2005.

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(Name of Registered Rep.)


(Signature and Date)